

# THE WINGSPREAD REGIONAL ACCORD

*On June 25 and 26, 2001, governing board members and staff from the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS), the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC), the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), met at the Wingspread Conference Center in Racine, Wisconsin to discuss ways to work more effectively as a region.*

The four signatories acknowledge that our southern Lake Michigan tri-state region is characterized by socio-economic and environmental interdependence, as evidenced through shared water resources and ecosystems, interconnected transportation systems and connected employment and residential patterns.

We recognize and acknowledge that a global economy offers significant opportunity for our region. We believe that by working together, we can leverage our unique strengths and maximize our ability to benefit from national and international economic trends, in effect creating a "global heartland."

The four signatories therefore join together to make the following commitments with the goal of facilitating regional recognition and focused access in a global future that leverages the socio-economic-environmental resources and infrastructure of the region.

As a forum for local government leadership, we will engage the business, civic and institutional sectors to leverage the combined strengths of our individual states to support approved regional plans for the benefit of the region;

We will enlist federal and state governments to play key roles as partners and funders of such tri-state planning initiatives in coordination with existing agencies and activities;

We will increase our interstate and interagency communication using a variety of techniques and technologies with the goals of sharing information more efficiently and creating new opportunities for collaboration;

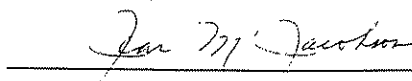
We will develop methods to improve planning efforts for the region as a whole with emphasis on border areas and interstate coordination;

We will work to coordinate approved plans, programs and projects so as to more effectively and efficiently serve our residents and visitors alike.

  
Chicago Area Transportation Study

  
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

  
Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

  
Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission